

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards: Rocks roll, trees topple, limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Drowning causes most deaths here. Some victims walking near rivers fell in; others didn't understand river currents.

Park staff work to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings. Ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

DROWNING: It is the #1 cause of death in national parks. Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength.

PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

POISON OAK:

Common in the foothills! Red leaves with whitish berries in fall, bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. Ask a ranger to show you. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



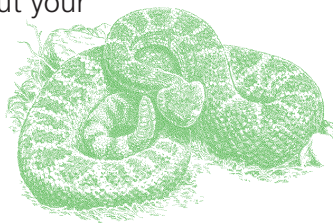
TICKS: Common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



GIARDIA in lakes and streams can cause intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

RATTLESNAKES are especially common in the foothills. Watch where you put your hands and feet! They are protected; do not kill them. Most bites result from handling or teasing. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic and call 911.



LIGHTNING: If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

CARBON MONOXIDE: This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent, camper, or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION: See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

CELL PHONES rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay telephones are available (pages 8-9); dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Calling cards are often required.

COUGARS roam all of these parks. They rarely attack people and pets, but be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Do not run. They may think you are prey and chase. Face the lion.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly, still facing the cougar.
- If it acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

EXPLORE SAFELY: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Keep your eyes and ears open for potential hazards above and around you. Slow down and share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

SAFE DRINKING WATER:

The 13 park water systems are tested to insure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

OPERATION NO-GROW

Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities, including marijuana growing! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

WINTER ROAD RULES

EXPECT ICY, SLICK ROADS

SLOW DOWN. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars. Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, chains and road conditions before you come: 24-hour recorded information 1-559-565-3341 (press 9, then 4). Motorcyclists: Avoid oil buildup in center of lanes.

ALWAYS CARRY CHAINS

that fit your tires and comply with signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; most cars have them. Check the side of the tire for M/S, M+S, or a snowflake symbol.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: 1-559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, minor repairs, jump starts: 1-559-565-4070 (24 hours).

GET SNOW OFF CAR ROOFS

It slides onto the windshield and blocks the driver's vision.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Always downshift going downhill. In automatic cars, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L.

SNOWPLOWS RULE

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, watch for signals from the plow operator. Slow down but do not stop.

FILL YOUR GAS TANK FIRST

No gas stations lie within the park. Fill up in nearby Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or the National Forest's Hume Lake (1-559-335-2000) 24 hours with credit card: 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180. Grant Grove Market sells cans of emergency gas.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails),

single file, with traffic. Wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On the 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car.

WINTER ROAD CLOSURES

IN KINGS CANYON PARK & NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT –

- **Generals Highway** (the main park road) closes for plowing from Wuksachi to junction with Hwy 180 during & after storms. Depending on snowfall, closure may last for hours or weeks.
- **Highway 180 to Cedar Grove** closed mid-November until late April due to rockfall.

• **Redwood Mountain Road** is unpaved. Not plowed.

• **Panoramic Point Road** closes with first snow. No trailers or motorhomes.

• **Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin** (USFS): All are partially unpaved and close with snow.

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK –

- **Crystal Cave Road** closes late October to mid-May.
- **Mineral King Road** reopens 5/28/09 (snowmelt permitting).
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road** closes with first snows; reopens with spring melt. No drinking water along this road.
- **South Fork Road** is partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.
- **Road to Middle Fork Trail** is unpaved; slippery when wet. Road closes for winter; park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slower vehicles *must* use paved turnouts to let traffic pass. Park and drive only on pavement.

GO SLOW FOR WILDLIFE!